REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-7 and 10-19 remain pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 15 and 16 are amended.

In numbered paragraph 3, page 2 of the Office Action, independent claims 1, 15 and 16, along with various dependent claims, are rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. 2002/0133622 (Pinto). In numbered paragraph 6, page 4 of the Office Action, independent claims 1, 15 and 16, along with various dependent claims, are rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,926,463 (Ahearn et al.). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants have disclosed discovering Cisco Discovery Protocol (CDP) nodes in a network in real time. A CDP node has a CDP management information base (MIB) which contains information about the CDP node and information of other neighboring CDP nodes on the network (paragraph [0014]). As shown in Fig. 2, the discovery process can be seeded by either a user input or from previously identified nodes (specification at paragraph [0016]). For example, the user can be queried to provide a first CDP node information 204. A signal is transmitted from a network manager to the first CDP node of the network. The signal requests information regarding additional CDP nodes on the network (paragraph [0014]). The signal can be an SNMP message that accesses the CDP MIB of the first CDP node (paragraph [0014]). These features can speed the discovery of desired portions of the network.

The foregoing features are broadly encompassed by claim 1 which recites, among other features, a method of discovering Cisco Discovery Protocol (CDP) nodes in a network in real time, including, seeding a discovery process using at least

one of querying a user to provide a first CDP node information and searching a database of CDP nodes previously discovered by a network manager to identify a first CDP node, and transmitting a signal from the network manager to the first CDP node of the network, wherein the signal requests information contained in a management information base of the first CDP node regarding additional CDP nodes known to the first CDP node. Claim 15 similarly recites a method for discovering CDP nodes of a network; and claims 16 similarly recites a computer-based system that discovers Cisco Discovery Protocol (CDP) nodes in a network in real time.

The Pinto publication does not teach or suggest seeding a discovery process using at least one of querying a user to provide a first CDP node information and searching a database of CDP nodes previously discovered by a network manager to identify a first CDP node, and transmitting a signal from the network manager to the first CDP node of the network, wherein the signal requests information contained in a management information base of the first CDP node regarding additional CDP nodes known to the first CDP node. In contrast, the Pinto publication discloses a subnet manager sending management packets to various elements in its subnet. The manager sends packets to a switch which causes the switch to send packets from its ports to discover which devices are connected to that switch (paragraph 0039]). The Pinto publication does not teach or suggest discovering Cisco Discovery Protocol nodes based on 1) seeding a discover process using at least one of querying a user to provide a first CDP node information and searching a database of CDP nodes previously discovered by a network manager to identify a first CDP node, and 2) requesting information contained in a management information base of the first CDP

node regarding additional CDP nodes known to the first CDP node, as recited in claims 1, 15 and 16.

The Ahearn et al. patent does not teach or suggest seeding a discovery process using at least one of querying a user to provide a first CDP node information and searching a database of CDP nodes previously discovered by a network manager to identify a first CDP node, and transmitting a signal from the network manager to the first CDP node of the network, wherein the signal requests information contained in a management information base of the first CDP node regarding additional CDP nodes known to the first CDP node. In contrast, the Ahearn et al. patent discloses a tool which enables a network manager to trace a bad route within a routing table from a router back to the source of the route (col. 11, lines 7-9). The Ahearn et al. patent discloses that "the user must first select a router and enter the destination IP address of the bad route" (col. 11, lines 9-10). The Ahearn et al. patent does not teach or suggest discovering Cisco Discovery Protocol nodes based on 1) seeding a discover process using at least one of querying a user to provide a first CDP node information and searching a database of CDP nodes previously discovered by a network manager to identify a first CDP node, and 2) requesting information contained in a management information base of the first CDP node regarding additional CDP nodes known to the first CDP node, as recited in claims 1, 15 and 16.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant's claims 1, 15 and 16 are allowable over the Ahearn patent. The remaining claims depend from independent claims 1 and 16 and recite additional advantageous features which further distinguish over the

document relied upon by the Examiner. As such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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